Dumka survey areas:

Coal is being transported from Pachwara - Amrapara, Katikunt, and Gopikandar blocks to Dumka near the railway station, to be unloaded by dumpers, reloaded on to caro trains to be taken to Adani thermal power plants by JCB earth movers, polluting the entire station area dispute local residents protesting against coal dust pollution all around the place, railway station, several schools, etc are affected badly.

So the villagers surveyed were on both sides of the road from Amrapara, Katikunt and Gopikandar blocks. Total number of villagers surveyed is given in the report.

A Survey of the Impact of Coal Mining on the Community

Coal production is, in many cases, a harmful activity. The process of coal mining causes soil erosion, deforestation, air pollution and water pollution, and burning coal releases greenhouse gases that contribute to the global climate crisis. Furthermore, coal mining often leads to the displacement of local communities, resulting in adverse physical, economic, cultural, and social consequences for them. The dual nature of coal, being both an essential energy resource and a source of significant social disruption, necessitates careful study and policy intervention.

A detailed survey has been conducted in two districts of Jharkhand, in order to understand the effects of coal mining on the local population. The survey contained questions on; the demographic profile of the respondents, the impact of coal mining on their lives and livelihood, the losses caused by coal mining and, if any, compensation received by the respondents, and finally an assessment evaluating and weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of coal mining. This is a report of the findings and conclusions from the survey.

About the Survey: This survey was conducted in November 2025, in two districts of Jharkhand – Dumka and Pakur, with 200 participants. The distribution of participants by district is shown in Figure 1. 115 participants (57.5%) were from Dumka district whereas the remaining 85 participants (42.5%) were from Pakur District.

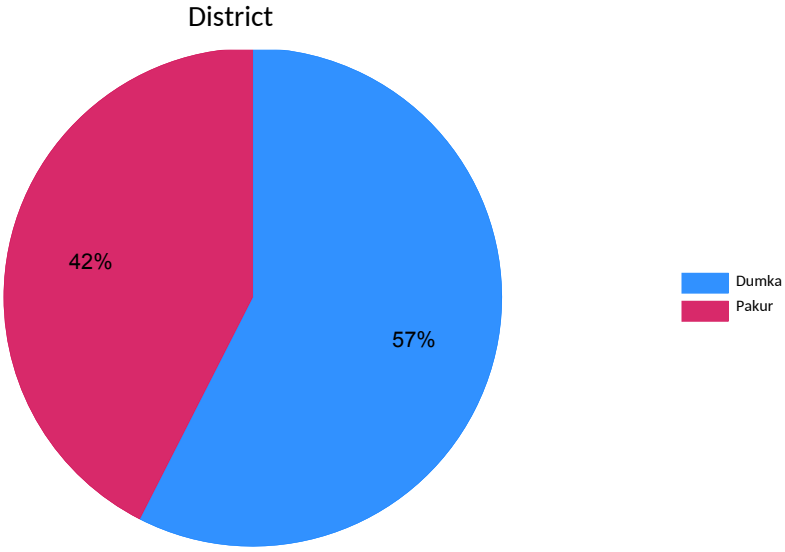
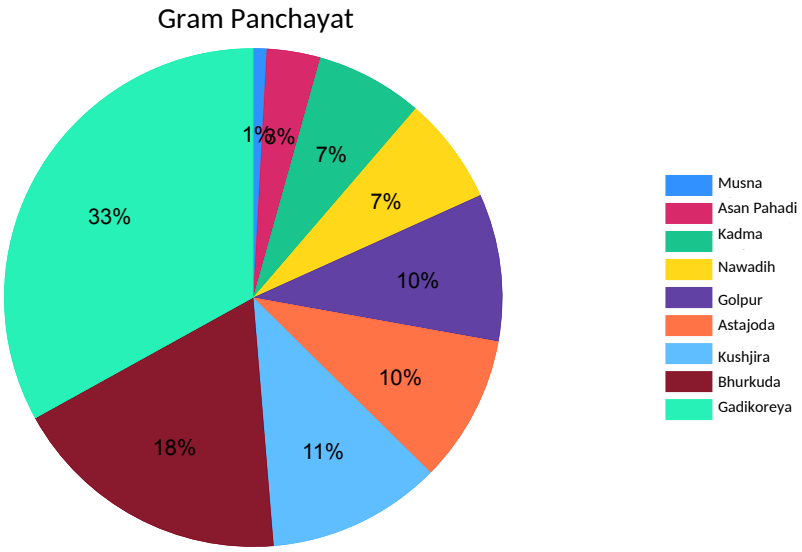
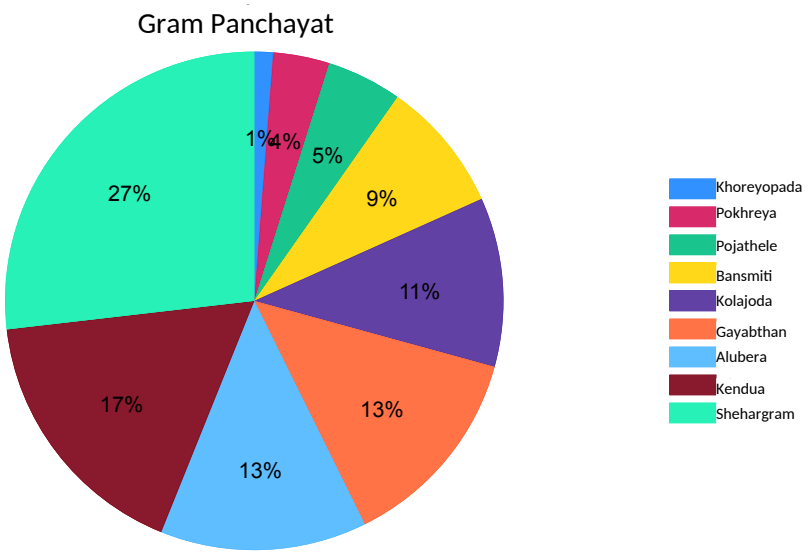


Figure 1



District: Dumka



District: Pakur

Figure 2

The survey was conducted in 9 Gram Panchayats in both districts. The names of the Gram Panchayats and the answers percentage of answers received is shown in Figure 2.

Family Information:

The following information has been gathered about the respondents : The head of the family's level of education, their gender, the family's caste category, land ownership details, the family's main source of livelihood, their average monthly income, and whether any family members were engaged in mining activities.

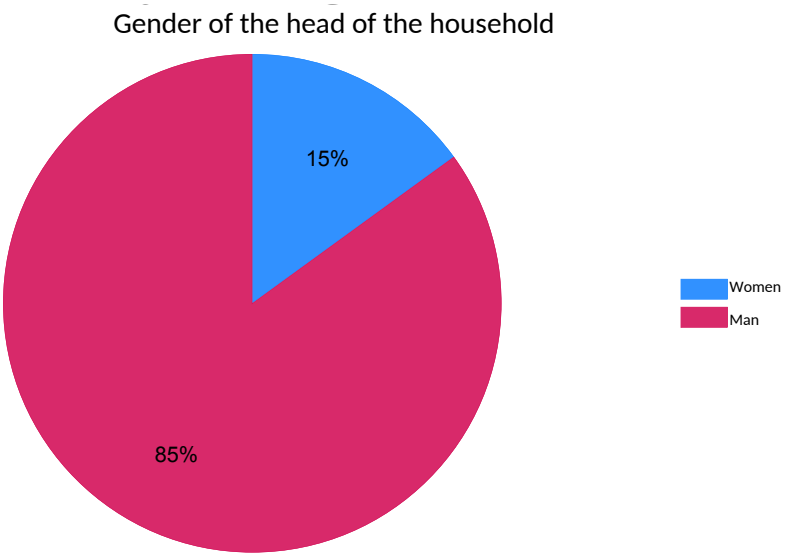


Figure 3: **Gender of the head of the household**

Gender of the head of the household: The information about the gender of the head of the family is shown in Figure 3. 85% of respondents said that the head of their household was a man, whereas 15% said that the head of the household was a woman. The average age of the head of the household is 45 years.

Education levels of the head of the household: 195 respondents answered the questions regarding the status of education of the head of the household. The summary of their answers is shown in Figure 4. 35% of head of households were illiterate, 21% have studied until 5th grade, 29% until 10th grade, only 8% have studied until 12th grade and only 7% went to university.

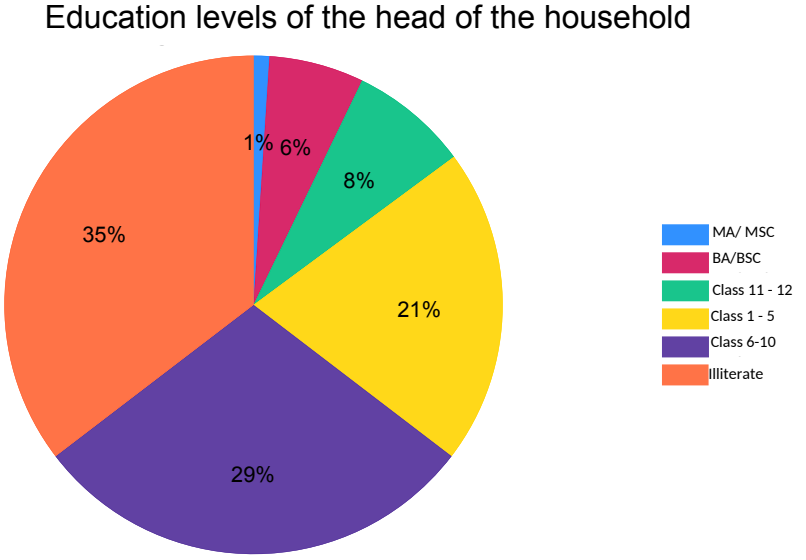


Figure 4: **Education levels of the head of the household**

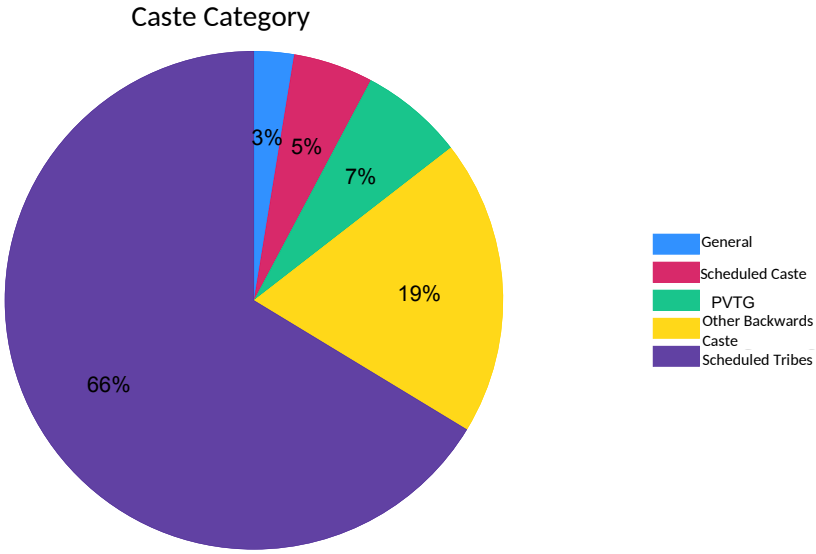


Figure 5: Caste Category

Caste Category: 193 respondents answered the question about caste category. The summary of their responses is shown in Figure 5. 66% of respondents are from Scheduled Tribes (ST), 19% from Other Backward Classes (OBC), 7% from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG), 5% from Scheduled Castes (SC) and only 5% from the general category.

Ownership of Agricultural land: 171 people answered the question on the area of land they own, out of them 12 said that their family does not own any land. The rest, 159 people own between .1 bigha to 45 bigha of land, the average of which was 5.6 bigha. Only 8 people said that their family has forest land. The size of this forest land was between 1 and 4.5 bigha, with an average of 2.6 bigha. (Bigha varies from state to state but in jharkhand 1 bigha is 27,211 sq. ft.)

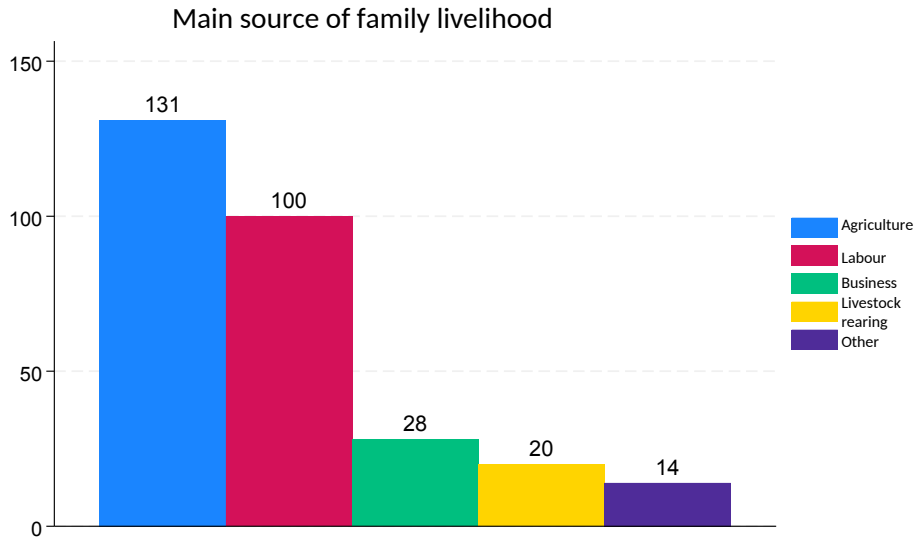


Figure 6: **Main source of family livelihood**

Main source of family livelihood: 197 respondents answered the question on the main sources of family livelihood. A summary of their responses is given in Figure 6. 66% of respondents said that farming was the main source of livelihood, followed by manual labour (51%), business/shopkeeping (29%), livestock rearing (10%) and others (7%). Only 10 respondents, i.e., just 5% of respondents, said that a member of their family had been involved in mining-related work in the past year.

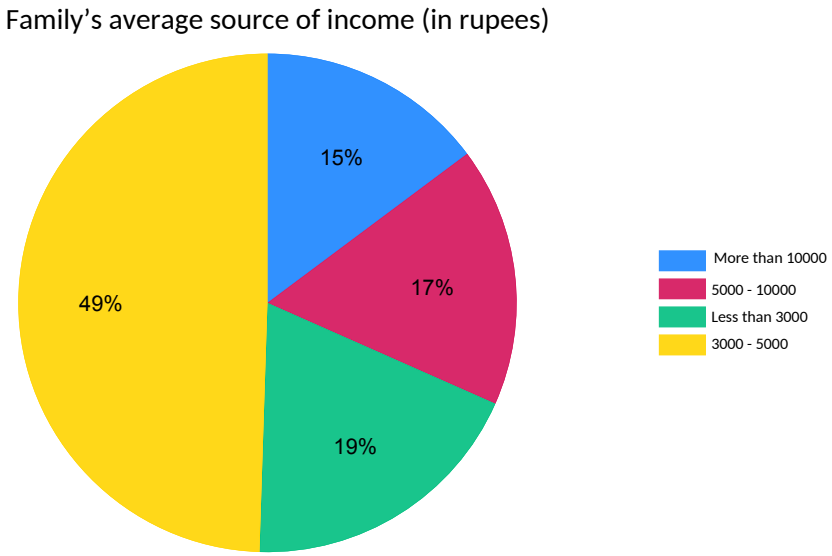


Figure 7: Family's average source of income

Average monthly family income: 196 respondents answered the question about their family's average monthly income. A summary of their responses is given in Figure 7. 19% of families earned less than Rs 3,000 per month, 49% earned between Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000 per month, 17% earned between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 per month, and only 15% earned more than Rs 10,000 per month.

Years of mining: 159 respondents answered the question about when mining work began in their area. A summary is given in Figure 8. In 37% of cases work began between 2003 and 2014, in 16% between 2015 and 2020, and in 47% it began in 2025.

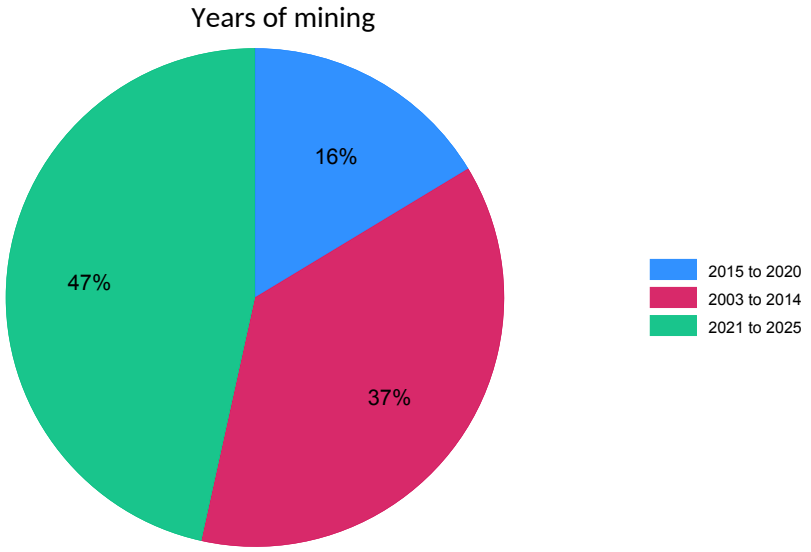


Figure 8: Years of mining

Impact of mining on health: This question concerned the effect of mining on the health of respondents and their family members. Fifty-eight per cent of respondents said that in the past year one or more members of their family had often been ill. (Figure 9)

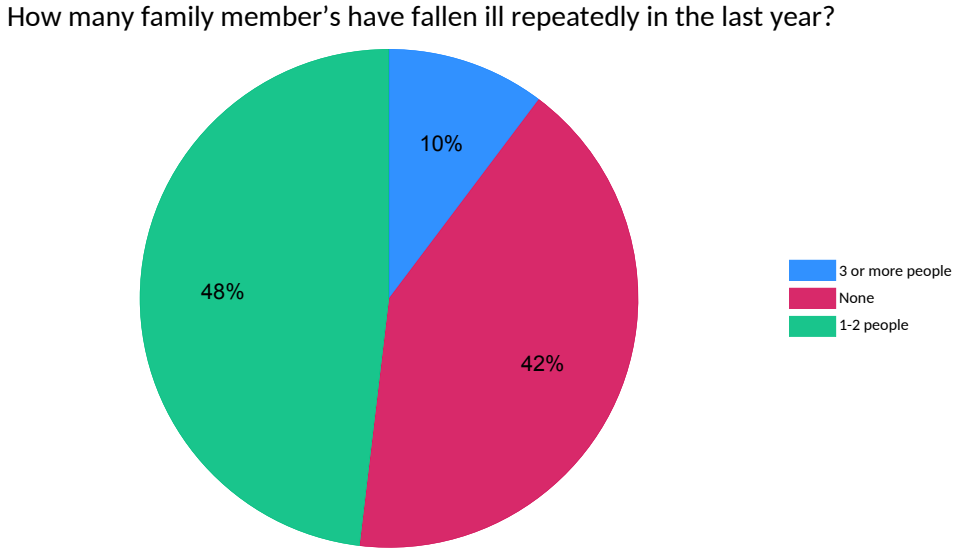


Figure 9

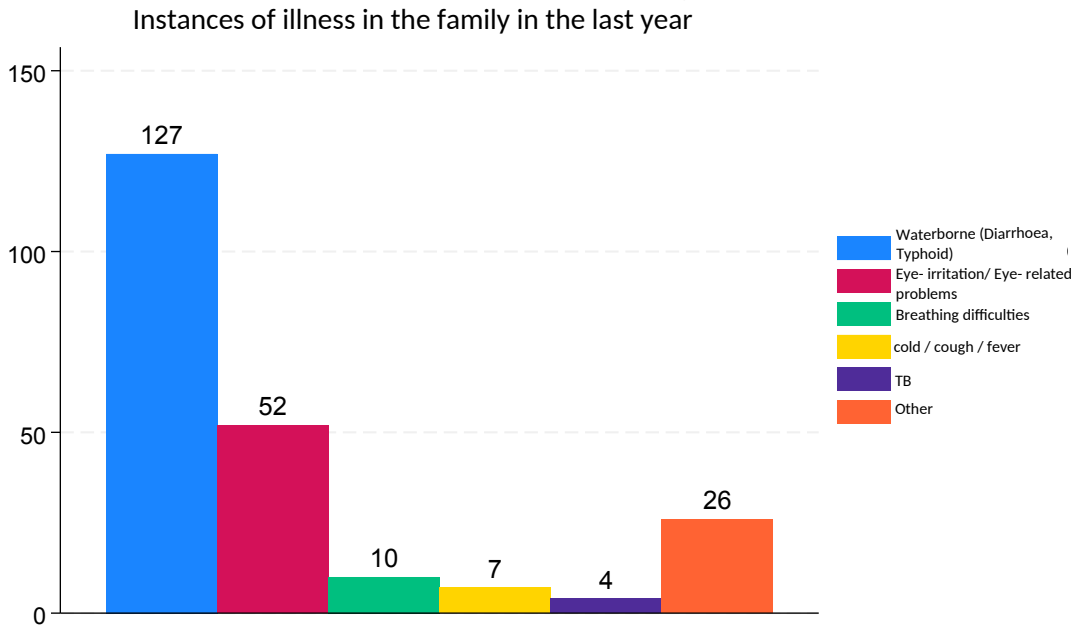


Figure 10

Diseases: Most of the illnesses affecting families were waterborne, such as diarrhoea and typhoid (81%), followed by eye irritation/eye-related problems (33%), breathing difficulties, colds, coughs or fever, TB and others. (Figure 10)

Environmental impact of mining:

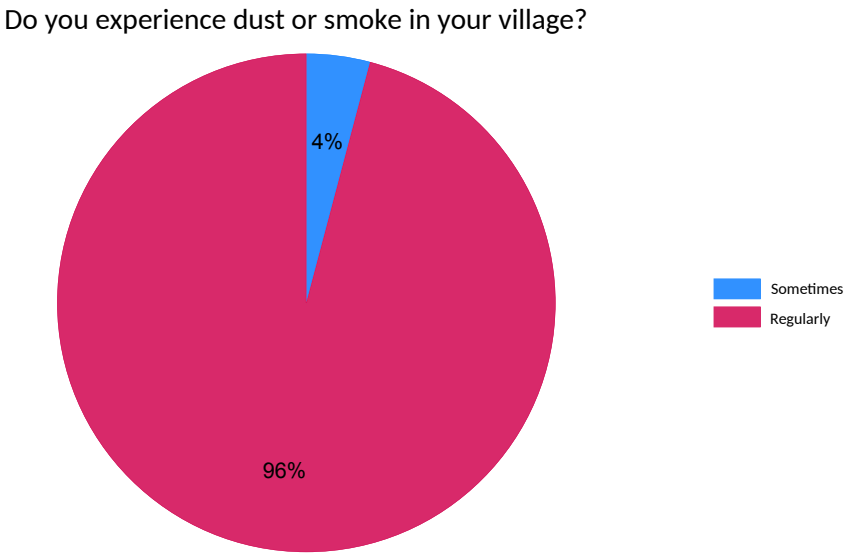


Figure 11

Smoke or Dust: 96% of respondents said that they regularly experience dust or smoke in their village.(Figure 11)

Sources of Drinking Warer: Most respondents obtain water for drinking from hand pumps (56%), followed by wells (29%), tankers (16%), borewells and others (Figure 12).

Impact on water quality: 60% of respondents said that mining has affected the quality of their drinking water. Most felt that mining had changed the taste of the water (81%), followed by a change in its colour (56%) or that the water had begun to smell (50%). (Figure 13)

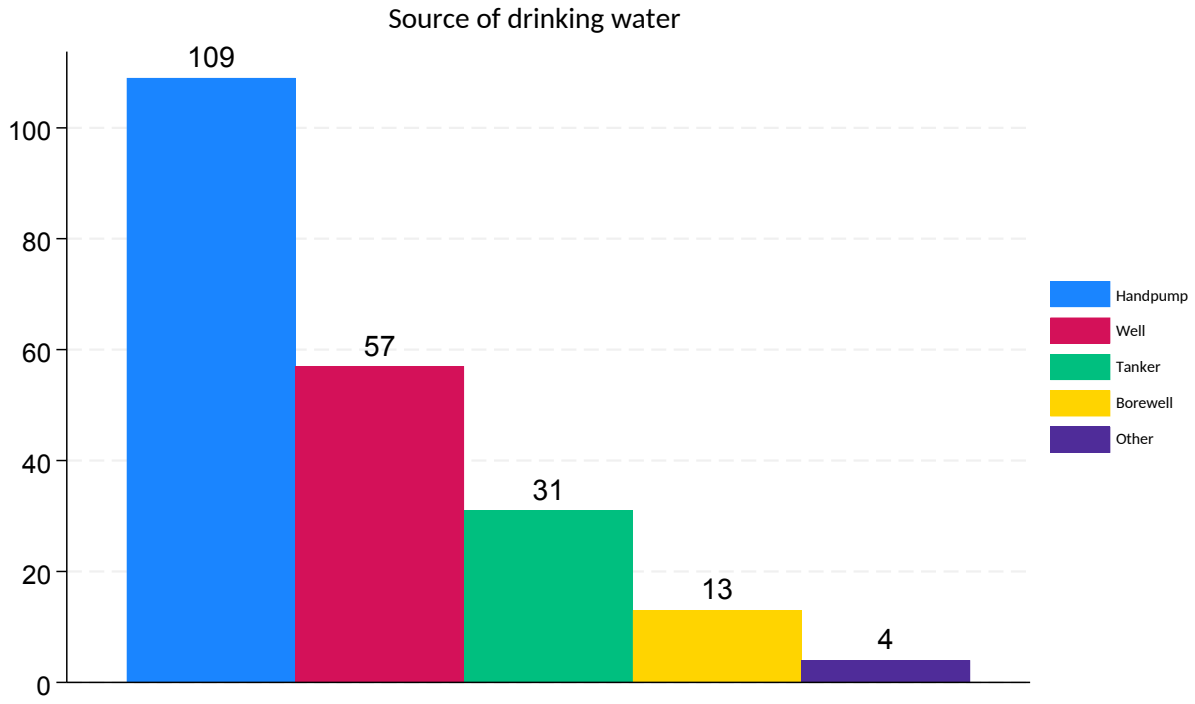


Figure 12

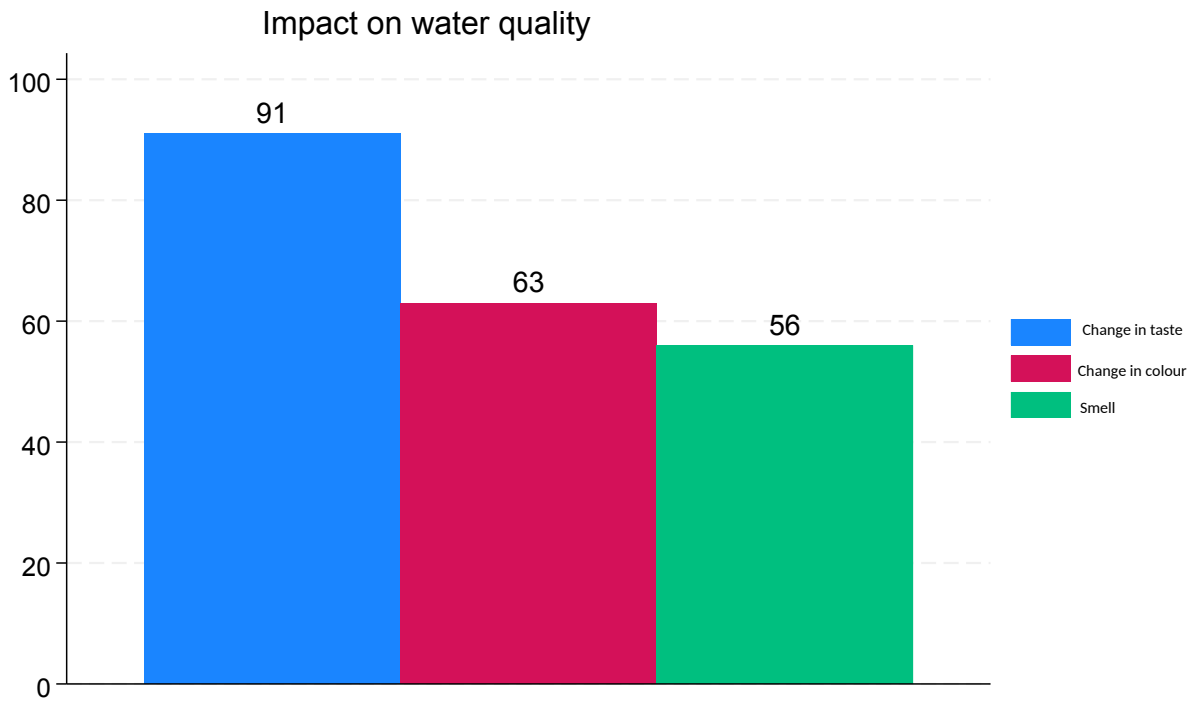


Figure 13

Effects on Farming: There was a question about the impact of mining on people's farming. 146 respondents said that mining had a negative impact on their farming. Most said that mining had reduced their crop yields (77%), followed by soil quality deterioration (66%), drying up of irrigation sources (12%) and other issues (Figure 14).

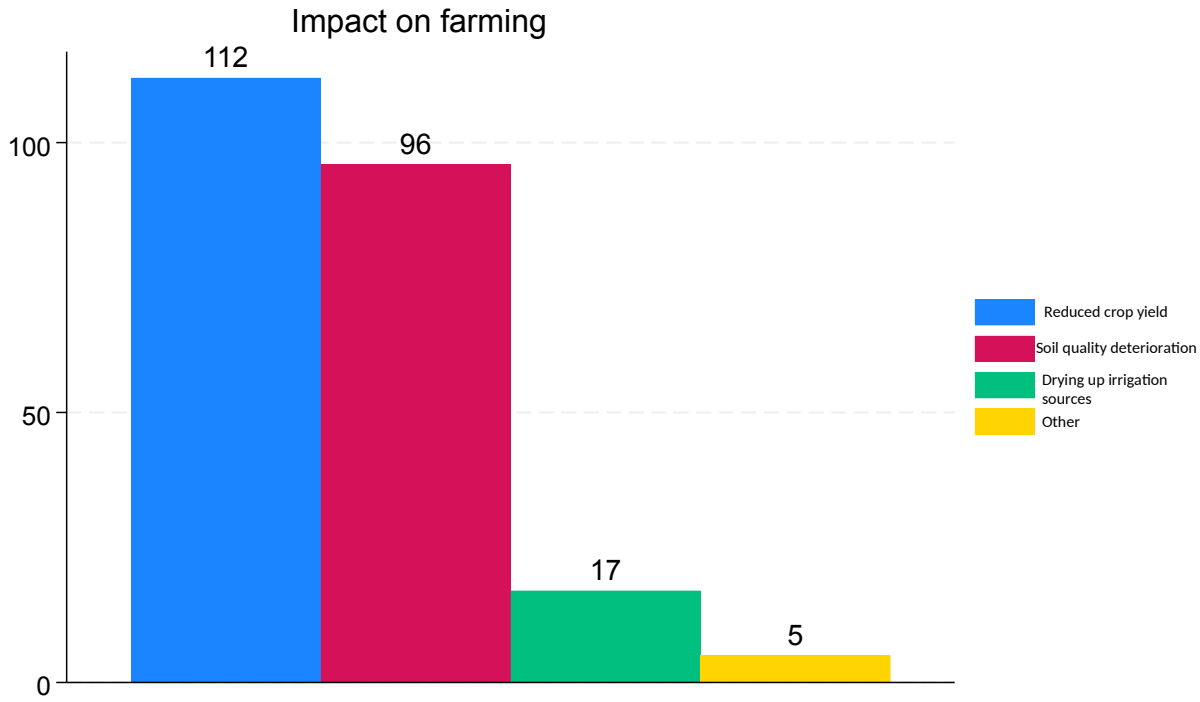


Figure 14

Farms by the road: The impact of mining was greater on farms situated near the roads used for transporting coal. 105 respondents said their farms were adjacent to roads used for coal transport. Fifty-two respondents (50%) said that farming was not possible, 45% said that yields have decreased slightly or significantly, and only 6% said that their farming has been unaffected.

Damage to plants and animals: The impact of mining has been felt not only on agriculture, but also on horticulture, forestry and livestock farming. 83.8% of respondents said that mining had affected their plants/trees and/or livestock. The greatest impact was the death of livestock due to accidents involving coal-carrying vehicles (43%), followed by the stunted growth of trees and plants due to coal dust (17%), wilting of trees and plants due to coal dust (15%), an increase in diseases among livestock (13%), difficulty in obtaining fodder or clean water for livestock (12%), and others. (Figure 15)

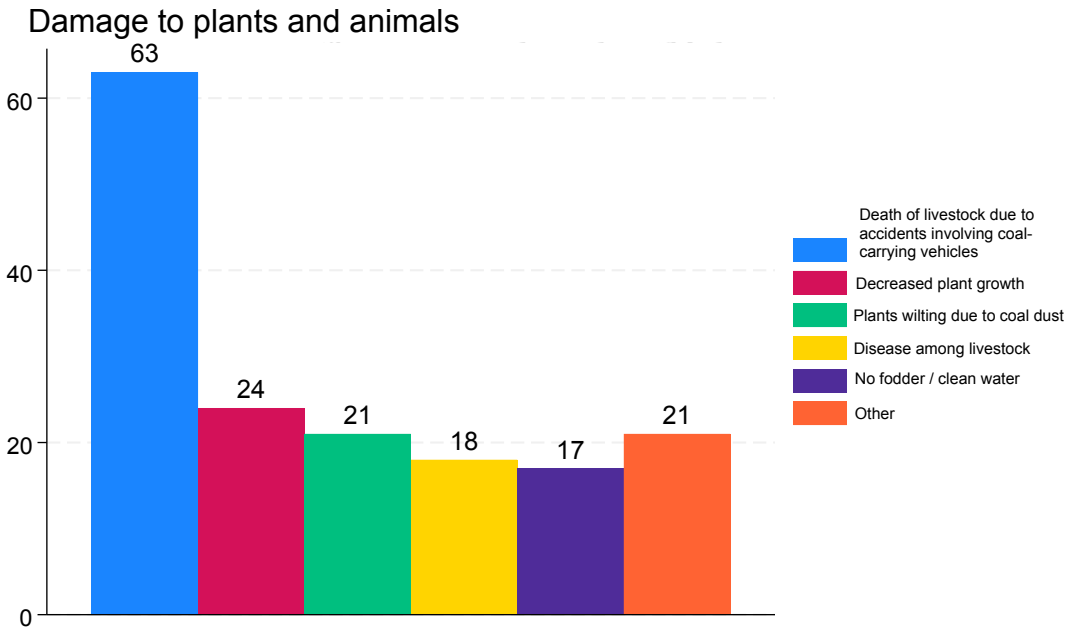


Figure 15

Opinions of citizens: The final set of questions concerned respondents' views on mining. Ninety-seven per cent of respondents said they did not support mining (Figure 16).

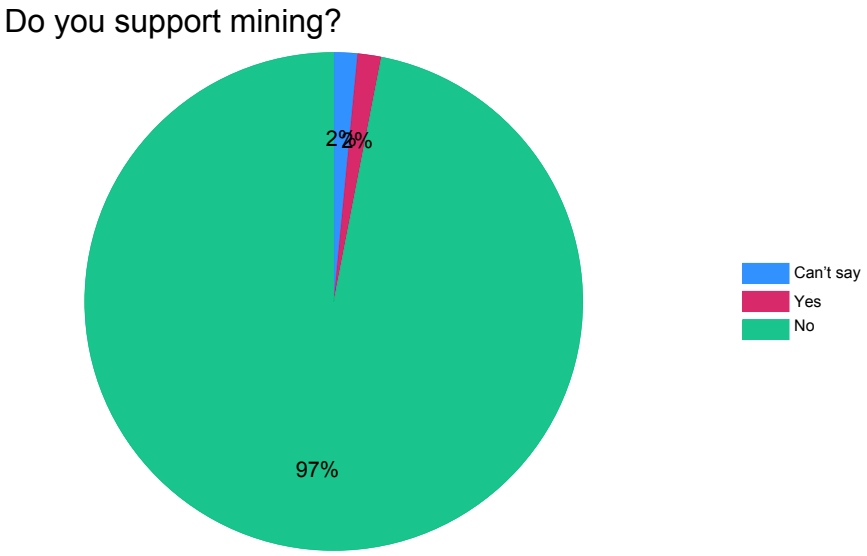


Figure 16

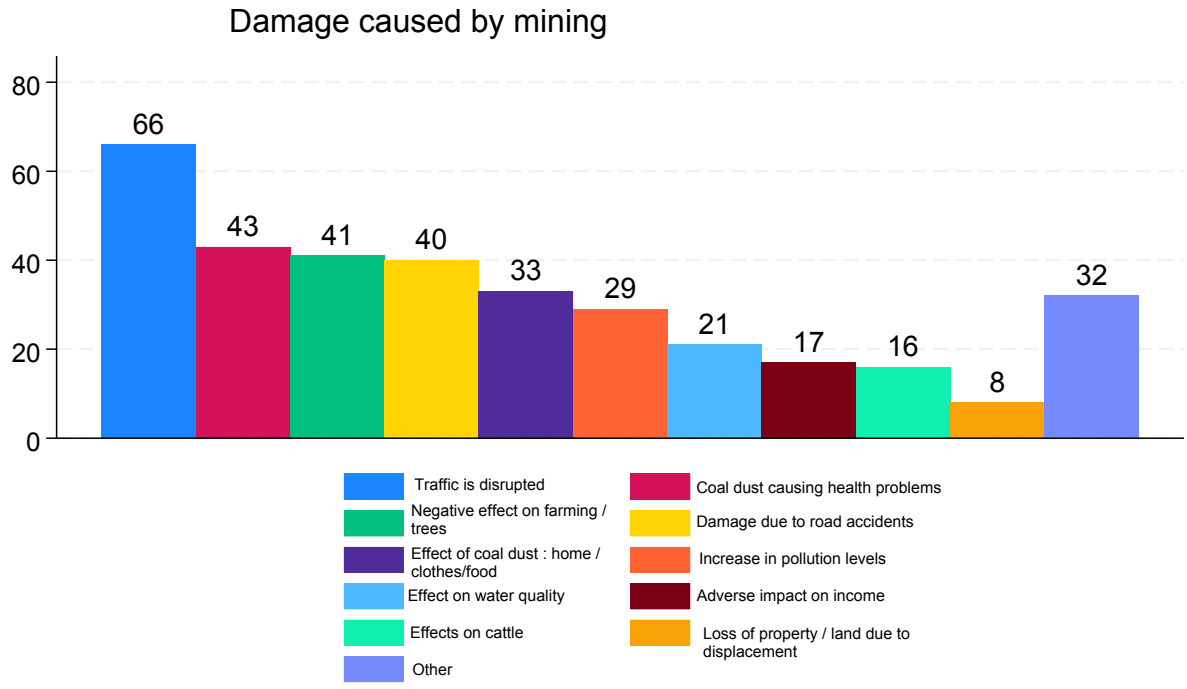


Figure 17

Respondents gave a variety of answers about the damage caused by mining (Figure 17). They said that mining had hindered their movement (34%) and had a negative impact on their income (8%). which caused damage to their property. Many problems are linked to

coal dust. Respondents said that coal dust caused health issues (22%), covered their homes, clothes and food (17%), adversely affected crops and plants (21%) and increased pollution levels (15%).